

# Sidewalk Chalk

## Description:

Children will make their own chalk and create a chalk picture on the sidewalk.

## Materials:

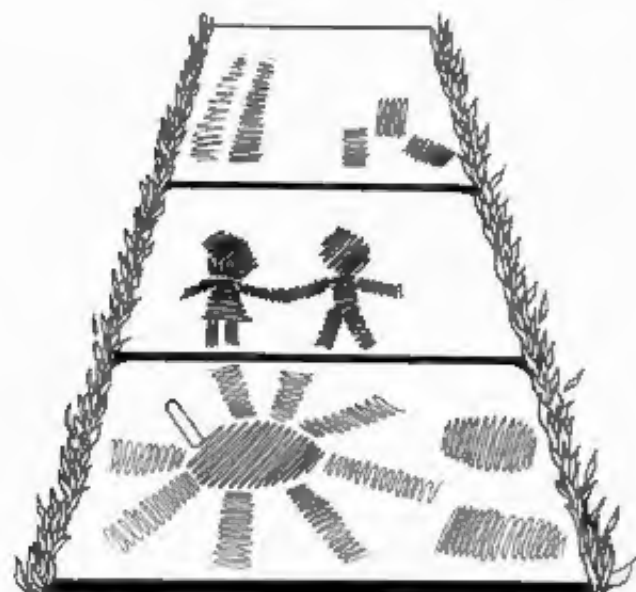
sidewalk chalk (see recipe below), a sidewalk

Optional: store-bought chalk or chalk pastels, large sheet of cardboard

**Standards:** 1

**Concepts:** Color, line, and shape

**Level:** Pre K-3



## Procedure:

Make some sidewalk chalk with your child by following the recipe below. Talk to your child about the movie *Mary Poppins*, or rent the movie and watch it. The chimney sweep in the movie made chalk pictures on the sidewalk, which came to life when the nanny and her children jumped into them. If you have a sidewalk near your house, you and your child can create sidewalk chalk art. If not, you can use a large sheet of corrugated cardboard and store-bought chalk to create chalk art designs. Encourage your child to blend the colors as he draws.

## Extension:

Help your child photograph his work, preferably with an instant or a digital camera. Frame the work with colored construction paper and put it in a portfolio or booklet. This will save the artwork even if the original chalk drawing fades or washes away.

## Just for Kids:

In *Mary Poppins*, the chimney sweep draws chalk pictures on the sidewalk, and a magical nanny makes the pictures come to life by jumping into them. What kind of picture could you make on the sidewalk? What if your picture came to life? Plan your picture first. Then draw the outline lightly on the concrete or pavement. Now color inside your lines.

## Chalk Recipe

Take 1 cup plaster of paris, 1/2 cup cold water, toilet paper rolls lined with wax paper (or paper cups), and powdered tempera paint. Combine the plaster, water, and tempera. The amount of tempera you add will determine how dark the color will be. Pour the mixture into the toilet paper rolls lined with wax paper (Make sure that you plug one end of the tube with wax paper or cardboard so the mixture doesn't run out.) Then let dry for a few hours or overnight. Take the chalk out of the molds and use it to draw on the sidewalk. The chalk will be most effective right after it is taken out of the molds.

## Resources:

*Mary Poppins* (the movie)

*The Magic Sidewalk* by Stephanie St. Pierre and Tom Brannon

